

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an immunogenic polypeptide having [[50%]] 90% or greater sequence identity to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the immunogenic polypeptide can raise antibodies which specifically bind to SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of 25 or more nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the fragment is capable of detecting *N. meningitidis* bacteria through hybridisation.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an immunogenic polypeptide, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule can hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 under

high stringency conditions comprising a wash in 0.1xSSC, 0.5% SDS solution at 65°C, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is capable of detecting *N. meningitidis* bacteria through hybridisation.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein comprising an immunogenic fragment of at least [[10]] 20 consecutive amino acids of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the immunogenic fragment can raise antibodies which specifically bind to SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 wherein the immunogenic polypeptide has [[90%]] 99% or greater sequence identity to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 wherein the immunogenic polypeptide has 95% or greater sequence identity to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.